

**To:** Carey, Curtis[Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]; Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]; Peterson, Mary[Peterson.Mary@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Bryan, David[Bryan.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Sent:** Tue 6/17/2014 2:23:36 PM  
**Subject:** RE: OPA Morning Clips - 6/17/14

Good Morning.

If you are referring to the MDNR data referenced in the KSDK story, it has apparently been out in circulation for some time now. We were unable to respond to Grant Bissell before his deadline, as Dan and Ben were tied up with the business meeting over in Bridgeton late yesterday afternoon.

I will be following up with Grant this morning. This story was generated by prompts from Ed Smith. We know this because Grant shared Ed's emails with us.

Bottom line: This is nine-year-old news. KSDK is disingenuously referring to this as "recently uncovered." More accurately, it could have been described as a story based on "Ed Smith's latest awakening."

It took some time, and KSDK's sharing of these documents and communications from Mr. Smith, to understand the context of the story. KSDK was asking if EPA had established background levels for Thorium 230 in any area outside of the Superfund site. We haven't, because the only occasion for us to do so would be if we were handling a cleanup of that particular contaminant.

I will tell KSDK that no, we haven't established a background level for Thorium-230 because there has been no scientific need for us to do so. I will point out to them that yes, MDNR found detections of Thorium-230 along the haul route in this 2005 sampling, but those levels were below the cleanup level set by the USACE FUSRAP program as it did its work.

**From:** Carey, Curtis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:35 AM

**To:** Washburn, Ben; Peterson, Mary  
**Cc:** Whitley, Christopher; Bryan, David  
**Subject:** FW: OPA Morning Clips - 6/17/14

Hi folks,

Just curious if we knew the MDNR data was going to be released? Also, do we know if the DOE and USACE data will be released anytime soon?

**From:** Bryan, David  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:30 AM  
**To:** R7 Senior Staff  
**Subject:** OPA Morning Clips - 6/17/14

**KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Radioactive waste outside of West Lake landfill (+video) - 6/17/14** - Newly uncovered documents show radioactive waste may have contaminated areas outside the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton. Soil samples taken in 2005 by the Missouri Department of Natural resources found at least three places along St. Charles Rock Road with unusually high levels of Thorium 230, a radioactive isotope that has been linked to certain types of cancer.  
<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/2014/06/16/radioactive-waste-outside-of-west-lake-landfill/10644289/>

**KCAU Ch. 9 Sioux City, Iowa - Heavy Rains To Bring Record Flooding in Siouxland - 6/16/14** - Widespread, record flooding is expected along the Rock and Big Sioux Rivers in Northwest Iowa this week. The cities of Rock Rapids and Rock Valley were already experiencing flood conditions along the river after nearly 7 inches of rain cause a dam to breach in Southern Minnesota on Saturday.  
<http://www.siouxlandmatters.com/story/d/story/flooding-rock-big-sioux-river-record-flooding/41399/f3A74fkPvkic-RiyPgqnvQ>

**Iowa City Press-Citizen - Hog farm proposal by West Branch man draws criticism - 6/16/14** - A West Branch man's application for a nearly 2,500-head of hog confinement feeding operation along the Johnson and Cedar county lines has stirred up opposition from area farmers and landowners.  
<http://www.press-citizen.com/story/news/local/2014/06/16/hog-farm-proposal-west-branch-man-draws-criticism/10641679/>

**Topeka Capitol-Journal - Rep: Koch using Kansas Chamber to retaliate on renewable energy - 6/16/14** - A Republican legislator says Koch Industries privately tried to ensure that he vote to repeal

renewable energy standards and arranged for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce to pull its endorsement of him because he questioned the company's lobbying methods. <http://cjonline.com/news/2014-06-16/rep-koch-using-kansas-chamber-retaliate-renewable-energy>

**The News-Leader, Springfield, Mo. - Koster to announce action in response to fish kill** - 6/16/14 - Attorney General Chris Koster is scheduled to announce some sort of action Tuesday related to a fish kill last month in Clear Creek in Barry and Lawrence Counties. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2014/06/16/koster-announce-action-response-fish-kill/10635453/>

**KSN Ch. 3 Wichita, Kan. - Wind power making tuition affordable for students (+video)** - 6/16/14 - Two huge wind turbines went online last year to generate electricity for Fort Hays State University. Now, faculty and especially students are finding out just how the "green energy" is helping cut costs, including tuition. <http://ksn.com/2014/06/16/wind-power-making-tuition-affordable-for-students/>

**McClatchy DC - Government numbers on crude-oil train safety don't add up** - 6/16/14 - The State Department projects 28 more fatalities and 189 more injuries a year if crude oil moves by rail instead of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. Sounds bad, but is it true? <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/06/16/230497/government-numbers-on-crude-oil.html>

**New Republic - House Republicans Are So Mad at the EPA that They Might Force Another Shutdown** - 6/16/14 - Even before the Environmental Protection Agency released a big set of proposed coal regulations this month, Republicans had made clear their intent to undermine the rules. <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/118206/house-gop-could-force-shutdown-over-epa-carbon-rule>

**Roll Call - Commentary: Obama's Playing Chicken With Manufacturing Comeback Using the EPA** - 6/16/14 - The Obama administration has taken its latest step away from the "all-of-the-above" energy strategy the president has professed to support. [http://www.rollcall.com/news/obamas\\_playing\\_chicken\\_with\\_manufacturing\\_comeback\\_using\\_the\\_epa\\_commentary-233908-1.html](http://www.rollcall.com/news/obamas_playing_chicken_with_manufacturing_comeback_using_the_epa_commentary-233908-1.html)